

The Gant County Fiscal Court met in Special Session on Wednesday, January 26, 2005, at 3:30 P.M. at the Grant County Courthouse in Williamstown, Kentucky 41097, with Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, Present; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, Present, and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, Present and Presiding.

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Judge Link opened in prayer and then led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Those present were: City of Corinth Mayor William H. Hill, Brent (Tank) Cummins, Norris Stacey, Sheriff Randy Middleton, KSP Captain Al Rich, Deputy Sheriff Troy Hagedorn, Deputy Sheriff Chuck Dills, Deputy Sheriff Marty Souder, Grant County News Editor Jamie Baker-Nantz and daughter Katie Nantz, and a couple of TV people with cameras.

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Judge Link gave a general update on the reason for this meeting. He explained the Financial Crisis and situation regarding Julie Patrick, former Director, at the Grant County Public Service Communications Center known as the Dispatch Center on Barnes Road. He updated on the meeting of the Grant County E911 Committee held on January 25, 2005, whereby discussion was held that there was not any available funds at the Dispatch Center to meet Payroll and other normal expenses. He stated that they were needing some financial assistance from the Fiscal Court to help cover these expenses. He stated that the Court hopes to be able to help care for the Dispatch Center and its employees. He stated that no wrong doing has been done by any of the current Dispatchers there, but he understood that there is an ongoing investigation by the Grant County Sheriff's Office on potential credit card abuse by an employee who has been suspended. He said hopefully some of those funds will be restored once the case is closed

out, but right now there is a shortfall on revenues for the balance of the fiscal year. He updated on some previous data submitted to the Budget Committee by the former Director but said he has not completed that information on his Spreadsheet yet. He did say that it looks like \$18,500.00 per month comes in on the telephone surcharge but there are about \$22,500.00 in expenses going out which is a shortfall of approximately \$4,500.00. He stated that the Court is ready to work with the Board of Directors and the Dispatchers. They have now earned a salary for the week and there are no funds to pay them. He recognizes that there are some managerial oversights that have gotten by them and the Fiscal Court must be protected and assured that these funds are to be used wisely. He stated that the Magistrates are concerned about the Credit Cards. It was stated that no one had knowledge that they were obtained, but the former Director had gotten the cards, Platinum Plus Credit Cards, one for herself and one for each employee. Even though everything will be paid back the Magistrates want them closed out. Deputy Sheriff Chuck Dills commented that he has the cards and they have all been cancelled. Judge Link asked the Fiscal Court to consider transferring \$25,000.00 to the Dispatch Center to help provide funds for the balance of the fiscal year. He reported that Sheriff Randy Middleton has agreed to allow funds to be transferred from the Sheriff's Motor Vehicle and Equipment Line Item to help support the Dispatch Center, and we thank him for that, but he expects to have it repaid before June 30th. If Fiscal Court approves of this transfer of funds they would also have to approve a Claim to the Grant County PSCC for these funds so that a check could be cut to give them. Judge Link asked the Magistrates if they had any questions and a lengthy discussion was held. Billy Hill, a member of the Board of Directors, assisted in answering some of the questions regarding the credit cards and

who was allowed to sign checks and how many signatures were required. It appears that the Director signs and one other Board member, whomever she can reach at the time. He stated that they had no indication that anything was wrong, all were in the name of the Grant County PSCC. Fiscal Court is not a responsible party to the PSCC. Judge Link said it is ambiguous as to who is responsible. He updated on the Budget Committee which consists of the Mayors of each city and the Judge/Executive, and reported on the Board of Directors as set out in the Interlocal Agreement between the Cities and the county. He gave an update on the last Quarterly meeting of the Budget Committee and the last Report that showed \$46,000.00 in the Platinum Account and \$18,000.00 in the checking account. At that time it looked like there were enough available funds. He again said he is still working on Data for actual revenues and expenses but has not been able to complete this and can not complete it today. Some discussion was held on some of this money going to Phase II Comp thru CERS and the Interact Program. It was reported that \$42,000.00 goes to the Interact Program, and that \$18,000.00 comes for Cincinnati Bell on phone lines. Only 26.5% of the funds can be used for payroll. Judge Link gave an update on the funds and how the Director managed them. Discussion was held on having some guidelines or Bylaws under which to operate. There are none at this time, however this will be addressed by the Board of Directors at a meeting they have scheduled for tomorrow. Discussion was also held on someone to manage the money besides the Director and this not being their responsibility, the Director would just manage the operation of the Center. Perhaps Fiscal Court or the sitting Judge/Executive in office could manage the money. It was stated that some type of action may have to be taken, perhaps cutting employees or benefits. Judge Link said that the Court could not

make them contract with anyone to do the financial management. Discussion was held on who was the Director now and who was signing checks. Dacia Wood is now serving as the acting Supervisor/Director. She will be one of the signatures on checks and the other one will be a Board member unless that is changed at the meeting tomorrow. Fiscal Court again stated that they are concerned and want to help but they want the funds accounted for, and that person or persons will have to do that and be responsible and pay these funds back to the Sheriff's Budget. Judge Link stated that the Board of Directors will be looking at preparing Bylaws as well as an Internal Audit which needs to be done. Deputy Sheriff Chuck Dills is still doing an ongoing investigation of the funds and will be bringing that to the Grand Jury. Sheriff Middleton, also a member of the Board of Directors, spoke on trying to get all of these things corrected and keeping the Dispatch Center in operation for the safety of the citizens. Further discussion was held on the amount of funds that was needed from the county to meet the payroll, payment of employee insurance, and some other miscellaneous bills such as maintenance agreements. Discussion was held on the employee insurance and it was reported that they have already received a cancellation notice effective February 01st if not paid. Again the Fiscal Court reiterated that they want to help but need some accountability for the funds if approved, as they have to be accountable to the public on the actions that they take as elected officials. Judge Link stated that when the Board of Directors meet they need to review all of these things but that they need to consider safety first and then other costs. After all of this discussion and attempting to see how much was needed the following Motion was made:

Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to approve

the Transfer of \$25,000.00 from the Sheriff's Motor Vehicles and Equipment Line item (01-5015-723) in the county budget and to create Line item No. 01-5145-348-Emergency Dispatch Service-Program Support, for the amount of \$25,000.00, and to further approve the payment of \$25,000.00 to the Grant County PSCC so that they may be able to meet their Payroll and other expenses, with the stipulation that a Day by Day accounting of the \$25,000.00 be made to the Judge/Executive as expended.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

Judge Link thanked all who were present for their patience and understanding and also thanked the Fiscal Court for their understanding and financial assistance on this matter. He also thanked the Board of Directors for their assistance and asked them to address at their meeting including adding the signature of one additional person besides that of the acting Director in signing checks in the future. Magistrate Messer also asked them to look at having a very detailed Job Description for a Director when interviewing and hiring a new Director. Judge Link thanked KSP Captain Al Rich, also a Board of Directors member, for all of his assistance in this matter.

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Motion of Richard Austin and seconded by Kenny Messer it is hereby ordered to

Adjourn until Monday, February 07, 2005, at 7:00 P.M.

The following votes were taken: Richard Austin, Magistrate 1st District, votes Yes; Patricia Conrad, Magistrate 2nd District, Absent; Kenny Messer, Magistrate 3rd District, votes Yes; and Hon. Darrell Link, County Judge/Executive, votes Yes.

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GRANT COUNTY JUDGE/EXECUTIVE